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The Sun Wishes All Its Friends and Subscribers a Happy New Year

Fifty Years of Masonry

By Joe E. Herriford, P. M.

CHAPTER 14.

In 1857 the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge convened in Omaha, as per appointment, and a large delegation was present. Many of the permanent members of the body had grown to look upon this meeting as an annual vacation from their various labors and the prospect of a visit to the beautiful Nebraska metropolis offered an exceptional attraction.



Looking over the list of grand officers we note the absence of Grand Treasurer Bruce, who for many years had been custodian of the Grand Lodge funds. His place was filled by Dr. J. C. C. Owens temporarily. It appears from the records and from expressions made by the Grand Master during his annual address upon the first day, that Grand Treasurer Bruce had become financially involved and that there was a shortage in the funds of nearly fifteen hundred dollars—a considerable sum for the Grand Lodge to lose at that time. So there was naturally much concern over the condition. Bonds made in those days were usually signed by private friends of officers and though they looked like the Rock of Gibraltar upon paper, were usually about as sacred as a treaty of peace between two Mexican states. If the integrity of a grand officer were ever questioned or if any objections were made to his methods of accounting, his friends always came forward and made such a demonstration that the objectors were soon cowed down and discredited. Actual free speech had never been an asset of a member of the Grand Lodge, especially if he hoped to ever receive any favorable consideration from those in authority. To have much to say about things was the surest and easiest way to kill one's self so far as concerned the politics of the Grand Lodge. True, there were always those who had well grounded reasons for objecting to certain prevailing conditions and customs, but these were usually discussed "in a low breath" and with the utmost discretion. Young masters coming up with a desire to know things were quickly advised by the older members to go slow and take things as they were. Everything was all right. The young members just did not understand. That was all.

Notwithstanding the distress which the shortage of the Grand Treasurer entailed no one thought of suggesting that the secretaryship of the Relief Department should be safeguarded in time or that the Grand Lodge ought to have any closer check upon that Department. Everything was all right—except with Bruce.

In his annual address, the Grand Master, who ought to have known the real state of affairs, merely hinted at matters and suggested a new look for the door. He probably desired to keep down excitement as much as possible. It was all quite vague to the brethren. It was all quite vague to the brethren.

One of the felicities of this meeting was the announcement that the "Iowa Trouble" had been settled. The rival grand lodges had met in convention, dissolved themselves, and formed an entirely new body, thus ending a long period of unnecessary and unfraternal strife.

Grand Master Pelham discussed the question of recognition from white grand lodges with something of discouragement. He properly concluded that the whole thing hinged upon the point of race prejudice and very properly advised that the agitation be kept up until the desired end was accomplished. The committee on Grand Master's address reporting under the leadership of the brilliant Dr. M. O. Ricketts, ordered the Grand Master to sound the alarm upon the door of every grand lodge in the world. The Grand Master was not ordered to stand by the door until it were opened.

From this viewpoint it appears that the Grand Lodge of Missouri should have devoted more of its energy to a businesslike control of its own affairs and less to that of begging recognition from biased white men who were so steeped in the dye of caste that they would not see the truth of the situation. To properly bond its financial officers and secure the funds contributed by the hardworking craftsmen was of far more importance than the shallow smiles of white grand lodges and all that the smiles carried with them.

At this meeting it was definitely decided to permanently locate the grand body at Jefferson City. Very little

was said about the Grand Lodge Library.

On the afternoon of the second day the elections were held. Brother Pelham, having set aside all competitors, was re-elected unanimously. Brother Wm. H. Jones was chosen Grand Treasurer, and Brother Matthew O. Ricketts was made Junior Grand Warden.

Hannibal won the next meeting after an exciting chase for the plum.

TOO NOISY.

Did you ever notice how noisy a certain class of our people are? It just seems to be natural for some to be noisy. This class talks loud on the streets, in the street cars or wherever they may be. Of course, the indiscriminating public finds it quite convenient to put us all in the same class and to say we are all noisy. This, of course, is not true, but the noisy, loud-mouthed fellows make so much noise and there are so many of them, as compared with the more refined class, that the impression prevails that all Negroes are noisy.

Now, some of you noisy fellows are going to read this. Of course you are. You don't think you are harming anybody by your noise, and you doubtless think that it is your own noise and that it is therefore nobody's business how much noise you make.

Perhaps you are wholly unconscious of the fact that you are noisy. But if you think your noisiness harms nobody you are wrong. For in the first place it harms you. It puts you down as an ignorant or clownish chap. It may keep you out of a good job. And then it harms the race to which you belong. In the eyes of many the whole race is judged and condemned by your noisiness and clownishness and through you certain privileges may be restricted or denied. True, people may only want an excuse to deny these privileges, and you furnish that excuse. Did you ever think of it in that light?

Empty wagons are noisy. Loaded wagons make very little noise. Ever notice it? Don't be satisfied to be an empty wagon.

Next time you are in a bunch of fellows notice how noisy they are and see if you cannot be a little less noisy yourself and induce the other fellows to be a little less noisy, too.

You owe it to yourself. You owe it to your race. Let us correct our faults whatever they may be, and being too noisy and boisterous is one of these faults.—Monitor.

ROBERT RUSSA MOTON: A LEADER OF MEN.

The New Principal of Tuskegee.

Robert Russa Moton, the well known commandant of cadets at Hampton Institute, was born in 1867 in Amelia county, Virginia. He entered Hampton in 1885 and graduated in 1890. For one year he served as a drill master and then became commandant of cadets.

Since the death of General Armstrong in 1893, Major Moton has served Dr. Hollis B. Frisell, principal of Hampton Institute, most loyally and efficiently both as a commandant of cadets and as a speaker in Hampton educational and financial campaigns throughout the country.

Robert Moton in 1908 became the secretary of the Negro Rural School Fund Board: Anna T. Jeanes Foundation. Since 1912 he has served as president of the Negro Organization Society of Virginia, which works through several hundred Negro Organizations for better schools, better health, better farms, and better homes. This society touches the lives of at least 350,000 Negroes in Virginia. Major Moton is also the trustee of several Negro institutions.

Dr. Washington's Friend.

Dr. Booker T. Washington and Major Moton were life-long friends. At the recent Boston meeting of the National Negro Business League, Dr. Washington asked Major Moton to sum up the proceedings and give his interpretation of the Negro's real progress. Major Moton then said: "We know that no man ever worked with a loftier motive for the uplift of his people, with more earnestness, with more patience, with more unselfishness, or with more efficiency than Booker T. Washington."

In 1907 Major Moton wrote for the World's Work the story of his life under the caption "A Negro's Uphill Climb." He has also contributed important articles on problems of race adjustment to the Southern Workman, an illustrated monthly magazine published by Hampton Institute. Major Moton's public addresses have been widely printed throughout the South as well as the North. They have been seasoned with enough wit and humor to make them entertaining without interfering with the serious purpose of his message.

Quarterly meeting will be held at Clark Chapel, Rev. O. A. Johnson, pastor, 1664 Madison avenue, Sunday, January 2. All invited.

Emancipation Celebration

BY THE COLORED PEOPLE OF GREATER KANSAS CITY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

AT HIGH NOON

AT LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

REV. WM. H. THOMAS, D. D., and PROF. JOHN M. MARQUESS, Principal of Sumner High School, Will be the Speakers.

MUSIC BY HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA AND CHORUS. Program will last one hour and twenty minutes.

ADMISSION ABSOLUTELY FREE.

LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL EXTENSION

The regular monthly School and Community Improvement meeting of the Lincoln High School will be held Sunday, January 16, at 3 p. m. Mr. E. E. Rouse, Assistant Cashier of the Missouri Savings Bank Association, will speak, subject "Education Thru the Savings Habit." Special music by Lincoln High School Orchestra. The entire public is invited and urged to be present.



MRS. GRACE THOMAS, MARTIN, of Jersey City, N. J. Whose place as the fashion plate of Kansas City has never been filled.

Pullman Raises Wages.

What the Wage Increase Means to Kansas City.

More than any other great railroad center, Kansas City will benefit by the 10 per cent increase in wages to conductors and porters, announced by the Pullman company to go into effect today. The increase is brought about through the efforts of the commission on industrial relations.

Kansas City is the greatest operating center of the Pullman concern. More Pullman cars are handled here than at any other point. Kansas City is headquarters for more Pullman conductors and porters than in any other city. A total of 600 conductors and porters live here.

The increase in wage scale will mean an additional annual expenditure on the part of the Pullman company, throughout its entire system in the United States and Canada, of \$600,000, of which sum about \$3,000 a month or \$35,000 a year, will be spent here. To the conductors' payroll in Kansas City will be added approximately \$1,500 a month, and to the porters' salary list about \$1,350, according to J. B. Elliott, district superintendent of the Pullman company.

Most of this additional money paid out by the Pullman company to its conductors and porters in the Kansas City district will be spent here. For 150 conductors and 350 porters live in Kansas City. In addition, there are those who operate in and out of Kansas City and do their marketing and buying here.

Of the 2,500 Pullman conductors in the United States, 260 or more than 10 per cent, work in the Kansas City district; while as for the 6,500 porters, 450 or better than 8 per cent, make this their headquarters.

The present salary scale is determined by length of service. Pullman conductors are paid from \$77 to \$125 a month, and porters from \$30 to \$50. Salaries after January 1 will range from \$85 to \$137.50 a month for conductors, and from \$33 to \$55 a month for porters. That will mean increased prosperity to 600 Kansas City families.

Statistics for 1915 have not yet been completed, but local Pullman company agents say they will show a big increase over 1914, with Kansas City still in the lead as an operating center. For 1914, the figures showed that Kansas City handled, on an average, 105 departing cars a day.

A predominant fact in the Kansas

City Pullman situation is that almost every Negro porter of the district is a member of the Negro Y. M. C. A.

BAND CONCERT AND MILITARY DRILL

Friday, January 14

By the Cadets of Western University, including setting up exercises—Battal Manual and Infantry Drill Regulations.

MAJOR N. CLARK SMITH. Admission 25 cents. Y. M. C. A. Auditorium, 1824 Paseo.

See the match basket ball game, Garrison Square vs Second Baptist church team at Y. M. C. A., Saturday, January 1, at 3 p. m. Admission free.



REV. J. R. RANSOM, D. D.

The brilliant pastor of First A. M. E. Church, Kansas City, Kas., who has just completed the largest and handsomest edifice for his church in the state of Kansas, and who is being favorably mentioned for General Officer at the next General Conference.

A Mother's Farewell.

"So you're going away, my darling boy. You've come for your last goodbye. You're robbing your poor old mother, son. So excuse me, my boy, if I cry."

Just think how I've watched over you From a babe to the man you are, Doing the best that I could, my boy, For you were my guiding star.

I've kept you pure and sweet and clean, I've taught you the nobler things, And I've tried, my boy, to show to you The reward that happiness brings.

And boy, you too, have been true to me, So that some of the boys made fun And said you were tied to my apron-string Because what I asked you was done.

And I've made your home life happy, Made home a place you would know You could always have your own way in, And, oh boy, I cry to see you go.

And listen to a mother's warning, Just listen, my boy, while I say You'll meet evil and sin continually, But fight it while you are away.

Be strong like the man I've made you, Keep your heart and soul sin free, And in the hardest of all temptations My boy, think you about me.

Here, take this little old picture, Just wear it right next to your heart, And whenever you look at it, my boy, You may know we're not far apart.

For, though today you leave me, My heart goes along with you, And a mother's heart is wonderful, boy, It will help you be good and true.

That's all, I guess, but the blessing And wishes for success and cheer; God bless you, boy, and keep you, As I've kept you for many a year.

Kiss me farewell—a kiss like you gave When, after we'd climbed the stairs, You'd throw your arms around and kiss me After I'd heard you say your prayers.

And remember your dear old mother, Remember she'll stand by you, And though you're far away, my boy, Say your prayers for your mother, too.

So you're going away, my darling boy, And this is our last goodbye? Come kiss me once, just once again, Then leave me and let me cry.

—Thos. Edw. Schumacher, Jr.

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NELSON C. CREWS, Editor

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